

What is claimed is:

1. An effusion cell designed for use in vacuum evaporation, comprising:
 - a self supporting high emissivity heater filament comprising SiC, said filament extending in a serpentine path;
 - a heat shield that partially encloses said heater filament;
 - a plurality of insulators separating surfaces of said heater filament from surfaces of said heat shield;
 - a supporting baseplate supporting said heat shield and said filament; and
 - a crucible disposed radially inward of said heater filament and designed to retain material.
2. The effusion cell of claim 1 wherein said heater filament is constructed out of silicon carbide that is comprised of an inner porous materials and an outer non-porous SiC material of high density.
3. The effusion cell of claim 2 wherein said SiC filament is encapsulated in a CVD deposited outer layer of densified SiC with low porosity.
4. The effusion cell of claim 1 wherein said heater filament is constructed from of silicon carbide encapsulated in a ceramic layer comprising such and AlN, BN, PBN, diamond, refractory metal oxides.
5. The effusion cell of claim 1 wherein said heater filament is constructed from of SiC encapsulated in a insulating ceramic such and AlN, BN, PBN, diamond, or refractory metal oxides.
6. The effusion cell of claim 1 where the cylindrical heat shield is comprised of silicon carbide, PBN, or combineateions thereof.
7. The effusion cell of claim 1 where the supporting baseplate comprises silicon carbide, PBN or combinations thereof.
8. The effusion cell of claim 1 wherein said cylindrical heat shield is comprised of an inner ceramic layer and an outer metallic layer.
9. The effusion cell of claim 1 wherein said filament providing a substantially uniform radiation therefrom when electrical current passes therethrough.
10. The effusion cell of claim 1 wherein said heat shield is generally cylindrical.

11. The effusion cell of claim 1 wherein said heat shield is generally conical.
12. The effusion cell of claim 1 wherein said heat shield is generally partially spherical.
13. The effusion cell of claim 1 wherein said heat shield is generally annular
14. The effusion cell of claim 1 wherein said filament extends along a generally cylindrical contour.
15. The effusion cell of claim 1 wherein said heat shield comprises a ceramic material.
16. A vacuum deposition system including the effusion cell of claim 1.
17. A method of making an effusion cell designed for use in vacuum evaporation, comprising:
 - providing a self supporting high emissivity heater filament comprising SiC, said filament extending in a serpentine path;
 - providing a heat shield that partially encloses said heater filament;
 - providing a plurality of insulators separating surfaces of said heater filament from surfaces of said heat shield;
 - providing a supporting baseplate supporting said heat shield and said filament; and
 - providing a crucible disposed radially inward of said heater filament and designed to retain material.
18. A method of using an effusion cell, said effusion cell comprising:
 - a self supporting high emissivity heater filament comprising SiC, said filament extending in a serpentine path;
 - a heat shield that partially encloses said heater filament;
 - a plurality of insulators separating surfaces of said heater filament from surfaces of said heat shield;
 - a supporting baseplate supporting said heat shield and said filament; and
 - a crucible disposed radially inward of said heater filament and designed to retain material; and
 - said method comprising heating said heater filament.